

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FORMING A PLANARIZING PAD FOR
PLANARIZATION OF MICROELECTRONIC SUBSTRATES**

ABSTRACT

A planarizing pad for planarizing a microelectronic substrate, and a method and apparatus for forming the planarizing pad. In one embodiment, planarizing pad material is mixed with compressed gas to form a plurality of discrete elements that are distributed on a support material. At least a portion of the discrete elements are spaced apart from each other on the support material to form a textured surface for engaging a microelectronic substrate and removing material from the microelectronic substrate. The discrete elements can be uniformly or randomly distributed on the support material, and the discrete elements can be directly affixed to the support material or affixed to the support material with an adhesive.